

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 are presented below, with claims 2, 6, and 10 pending. As shown below, claims 2, 6, and 10 have been amended, and claims 1, 3-5, 7-9 and 11-12 have been canceled.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A synchronization control apparatus according to Claim 1, A~~
synchronization control apparatus for synchronizing the output of a voice signal and the
operation of a movable portion, comprising:

phoneme-information generating means for generating phoneme information formed of
plurality of phonemes by using language information;

calculation means for calculating a phoneme continuation duration according to the
phoneme information generated by the phoneme-information generating means;

computing means for computing the operation period of the movable portion, according
to the phoneme information generated by the phoneme-information generating means;

adjusting means for adjusting the phoneme continuation duration calculated by the
calculation means and the operation period computed by the computing means;

synthesized-voice-information generating means for generating synthesized-voice
information according to the phoneme continuation duration adjusted by the adjusting means;

synthesizing means for synthesizing the voice signal according to the synthesized-voice
information generated by the synthesized-voice-information generating means; and

operation control means for controlling the operation of the movable portion according to the operation period adjusted by the adjusting means;

wherein the adjusting means compares a phoneme continuation duration and an operation period corresponding to each of the phonemes and performs adjustment by substituting whichever is the longer for the shorter.

3. – 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A synchronization control apparatus according to Claim 1, A~~
synchronization control apparatus for synchronizing the output of a voice signal and the operation of a movable portion, comprising:

phoneme-information generating means for generating phoneme information formed of plurality of phonemes by using language information;

calculation means for calculating a phoneme continuation duration according to the phoneme information generated by the phoneme-information generating means;

computing means for computing the operation period of the movable portion, according to the phoneme information generated by the phoneme-information generating means;

adjusting means for adjusting the phoneme continuation duration calculated by the calculation means and the operation period computed by the computing means;

synthesized-voice-information generating means for generating synthesized-voice information according to the phoneme continuation duration adjusted by the adjusting means;

synthesizing means for synthesizing the voice signal according to the synthesized-voice information generated by the synthesized-voice-information generating means; and

operation control means for controlling the operation of the movable portion according to the operation period adjusted by the adjusting means;

wherein the adjusting means compares the phoneme continuation duration and the operation period corresponding to all of the phonemes and performs adjustment by extending whichever is the shorter in proportion.

7. – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A synchronization control apparatus according to Claim 1, A~~
synchronization control apparatus for synchronizing the output of a voice signal and the operation of a movable portion, comprising:

phoneme-information generating means for generating phoneme information formed of plurality of phonemes by using language information;

calculation means for calculating a phoneme continuation duration according to the phoneme information generated by the phoneme-information generating means;

computing means for computing the operation period of the movable portion, according to the phoneme information generated by the phoneme-information generating means;

adjusting means for adjusting the phoneme continuation duration calculated by the calculation means and the operation period computed by the computing means;

synthesized-voice-information generating means for generating synthesized-voice information according to the phoneme continuation duration adjusted by the adjusting means;

synthesizing means for synthesizing the voice signal according to the synthesized-voice information generated by the synthesized-voice-information generating means; and

operation control means for controlling the operation of the movable portion according to the operation period adjusted by the adjusting means;

wherein the synchronization control apparatus is a robot.

11. – 12. (Canceled)